

Appln No. 10/760246
Amtd. Dated: July 27, 2006
Response to Office Action of May 8, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated May 8, 2006. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the distinction between the present invention and the cited art. In particular, the two or more printhead IC's on each printhead module are explicitly defined as being fixed to the support member. This is described in detail at page 8, line 36 to page 9, line 7.

Accordingly, the amendment does not add any new matter.

35 U.S.C. §102 - Claims 1 and 5

Claims 1 and 5 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook. We submit that amended claim 1 is clearly distinguished from the cited disclosure.

The Examiner has equated the printhead assemblies 10 shown in Figure 15 of '908 with the printhead modules defined by claim 1. The cover molding 28 shown in Figure 6 of '908 has been equated to the support member of claim 1. However, the at least one longitudinally extending channel in the support member defined in claim 1 has been equated to the channel 80 in the ink distribution member 32. The cover molding 28 does not include the channel 80. Therefore, we assume that the Examiner intended to cite the ink distribution member 32 as corresponding to the support member of claim 1.

On this basis, we believe that amended claim 1 is clearly novel in light of '908. The claimed printhead assembly has two or more modules, each module with two or more printhead IC's fixedly mounted to a support member that feeds ink to the nozzles, the support member having ends that facilitate a fluid connection to adjacent printhead modules within the printhead assembly. This allows the ink to be supplied from one end of the printhead assembly only. In '908, the ink distribution member 32 feeds ink to the nozzles of two or more printhead IC's via removable modules 12. Furthermore the ends of the ink distribution member 32 do not allow for any fluid communication with adjacently mounted printhead assemblies. This is clearly illustrated in Figure 15 where separate ink hoses 118 feed respective printhead assemblies 10. The skilled worker will appreciate that adds significant complexity to the ink distribution system.

The printhead assembly of claim 1 avoids this with modules that can establish fluid communication directly with adjacent modules. Accordingly, '908 does not teach fundamental elements of amended claim 1 or dependent claim 5.

35 U.S.C. §103 - Claim 2

Claim 2 stands rejected as obvious in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook in view of US 5,658,158 to Milan.

As discussed above, '908 fails to teach or suggest several elements defined in claim 1. The disclosure in Milan also fails to teach or suggest these elements. As claim 2 incorporates

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these elements by virtue of its indirect dependence from claim 1, it is clear that the citations fail to support a rejection on the basis of §103.

35 U.S.C. §103 – Claim 3 and 4

Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,439,908 to Silverbrook in view of US 5,658,158 to Milan and US 6,180,002 to Higgins.

As discussed above, '908 and Milan fail to teach or suggest several elements defined in claim 2. The disclosure in Higgins also fails to teach or suggest these elements. As claims 3 and 4 incorporate these elements by virtue of its indirect dependence from claim 2, it is clear that the citations fail to support a rejection on the basis of §103.

Conclusion

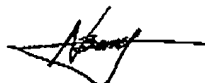
It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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